

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-7**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE  
VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING AN  
OATH OF CIVILITY TO BE ADMINISTERED TO ELECTED  
AND APPOINTED VILLAGE OFFICIALS; PROVIDING FOR  
IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN  
EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of ethics in government and the practice of ethical conduct by public officials requires that those who hold the public trust practice and maintain respect for the human dignity of their peers, subordinates, political allies and adversaries, as well as members of the general public; and

**WHEREAS**, the level of respect or disrespect for human dignity is most often on display in personal interactions between and among those who engage in public service, as well as those who aspire to public office in political campaigns; and

**WHEREAS**, in the words of Thomas Jefferson, “It is the manners and spirit of a people which preserve a republic in vigour...a degeneracy in these is a canker which soon eats to the hearts of its laws and constitution;” and

**WHEREAS**, through our common experience and the observed behavior of public officials, either personally or through the media, it has become apparent that there has occurred a degeneracy in the level of civility shown by too many of those who participate in government, including public servants, those who aspire to be public servants, and those who interact with public servants; and

**WHEREAS**, it has reached a point where uncivil, rude, and insulting behavior, which demeans both the perpetrators as well as those subjected to such behavior, has become too prevalent and too accepted in government and in political campaigns at all levels; and

**WHEREAS**, this lack of civility threatens the integrity and proper functioning of government and politics, not only in Miami-Dade County, but throughout the country; and

**WHEREAS**, the practice of civility in government may be maintained at no cost to the taxpayers and without impeding the free flow of ideas or the vigorous debate of important public issues; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2011, the Florida Supreme Court amended the Oath of Admission to The Florida Bar, which is sworn to by every newly-admitted attorney, requiring civility by attorneys to opposing parties and their counsel in court and in all written and oral communications; and

**WHEREAS**, the same requirement and expectation of civility and integrity ought to apply to all of those sworn to serve in government; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust adopted a resolution recommending the adoption by the Miami-Dade County Commission and the governing bodies of all municipalities within the County of an oath of civility; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Key Biscayne, Florida (the “Village”) is committed to the practice of civility in government; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Council wishes to adopt an oath of civility to be administered to all elected and appointed public officials of the Village upon taking office; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Council finds that this Resolution is in the best interest and welfare of the residents of the Village.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Recitals Adopted.** Each of the above stated recitals are hereby adopted, confirmed and incorporated herein.

**Section 2. Adopting Oath of Civility.** The Village hereby adopts the following oath of civility that shall be administered to all elected and appointed public officials of the Village upon taking office: “To my colleagues and to all those whom I represent and serve, I pledge fairness, integrity and civility, in all actions taken and all communications made by me as a public servant.”

**Section 3. Implementation.** The Village Manager, Clerk, and Attorney are authorized to take any action that may be needed to implement this Resolution.

**Section 4. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 21st day of February, 2017.

  
MAYOR MAYRA PEÑA LINDSAY

ATTEST:

  
CONCHITA H. ALVAREZ, MMC, VILLAGE CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

  
VILLAGE ATTORNEY

